



What's Happening in Houston's Theater District

January 2010

A CHORUS LINE

January 5-17 (Times vary)

Broadway Across America

In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete. For 17 dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It's what they've worked for - with every drop of sweat, every hour of training, every day of their lives. It's the one opportunity to do what they've always dreamed -- to have the chance to dance. This is A Chorus Line, the musical for everyone who's ever had a dream and put it all on the line. Winner of nine Tony Awards, including "Best Musical" and the Pulitzer Prize for drama, this singular sensation is the longest-running American Broadway musical ever. Now A Chorus Line returns. Come meet the new generation of Broadway's best. *"A Chorus Line is back, and it's thrilling!"* - John Lahr, The New Yorker.

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$20 - \$130

(800) 745-3000 / broadwayacrossamerica.com

MARIN ALSOP'S MAHLER'S FIRST

January 7-10 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Marin Alsop, the first woman to head a major American orchestra, brings her unstoppable energy back to Houston.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$116

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

FOCUS

January 9 (7:30 pm)

Musiqqa

Aurora Picture Show and Musiqqa present an eye-opening mix of film, lighting and music. Music by Kilstofte, Maroney, Knussen, Tumage and Brandt (world premiere), plus a screening curated by Aurora Picture show! Lighting design by Christina Giannelli. Tomasz Golka conducts.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$16 - \$32

(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org or musiqqahouston.org

MARY KARR

January 11 (7:30 pm)

Inprint

MARY KARR's debut book, *The Liars' Club*, hit the *New York Times* bestseller list in 1995 and stayed there for more than a year, almost singlehandedly launching a revival of the memoir. Michiko Kakutani of *The New York Times* called the book, which won the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for First Nonfiction, "astonishing... one of the most dazzling and moving memoirs to come along in years." *The Liars' Club*, a recounting of her apocalyptic childhood in the small East Texas oilfield town of Leechfield, was followed in 2000 by the sequel, *Cherry*, a document of the high school years, which *USA Today* calls "funny, eloquent, profane. . . no one tells stories like Karr." She has also written three books of poetry and her soon-to-be-published third volume of recollections, *Lit: A Memoir*, from which she will read. *Lit* chronicles her life as an adult and mother, as well as her time in "The Mental Marriott"—a loony bin so famous one Harvard grad suggested putting it on her resume. Karr is the Peck Professor of English Literature at Syracuse University and has won Pushcart Prizes for both her poetry and essays; her poems frequently appear in *The New Yorker*.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$5

(713) 521-2026 / inprinthouston.org

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

January 15-16 (8:00 pm each day)

Society for the Performing Arts

The New York Times calls Mark Morris “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical.” From its early years as, essentially, Mark Morris and a group of friends, to its contemporary status as a burgeoning dance institution, the Mark Morris Dance Group has stayed true to its founder’s convictions, especially dancing with live music performed by some of the world’s best musicians. Mark Morris Dance Group performances are not just dance at the highest level, but simultaneously, concert-going at the highest level.

For its SPA performances, the Company will perform *Excursions* with music by Samuel Barber; the tour de force *Going Away Party* to the music of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys; the powerful *Italian Concerto*, danced to the J.S. Bach score; and the astonishing *Grand Duo*, considered “one of the masterpieces of the late 20th century” (The Guardian) with music by Lou Harrison.

Wortham Center’s Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$22 - \$57

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

January 15-17 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Hear how three masters infuse jazz and dance hall music into these witty, brilliant scores.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$116

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

WONDERLAND

January 15 – February 14 (Times vary)

Alley Theatre

Composer Frank Wildhorn (Jekyll and Hyde) returns to the Alley with **Wonderland**, a delightful new musical that updates Alice’s adventures through an amazing pop score. Alley audiences will be among the first to see this new production filled with extraordinary songs, fantastic characters, and lots of heart. *Recommended for general audiences.*

Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$21 - \$85

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

THE PLANETS – AN HD ODYSSEY

January 21-24 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Milhaud: *Le boeuf sur le toit*

The Houston Symphony has commissioned celebrated producer/director Duncan Copp to assemble state-of-the-art, high definition images from NASA’s exploration of the solar system to accompany Holst’s exciting, cosmic score, along with commentary by the world’s leading planetary scientists. Be present for this special world premiere event.

Stravinsky: *Scherzo fantastique*

Dutilleul: *Timbres, espace, mouvement* (The Starry Night)

Holst: *The Planets*

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$116

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

TOSCA

January 22 – February 7 (Times vary)

Houston Grand Opera

Renowned soprano Patricia Racette makes her role debut as the passionate Floria Tosca in Puccini’s timeless drama. Tenor Alexey Dolgov is the painter Mario Cavaradossi, whom Tosca adores and Raymond Aceto sings the menacing Baron Scarpia who will stop at nothing to destroy the object of Tosca’s affections. Created especially for Houston Grand Opera, this new production by John Caird features classic sets and costumes designed by Bunny Christie in the style of nineteenth-century Rome.

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Performance Timing: 2 hours, 40 minutes including 2 intermissions

Wortham Center’s Brown Theater

Tickets: \$23 - \$200

(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org

DAVID WROBLEWSKI

January 25 (7:30 pm)

Inprint

DAVID WROBLEWSKI burst onto the literary scene last summer with his debut novel *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*. The 600+ page novel, a "spellbinding first novel...nearly impossible to put down" (*Kirkus Reviews*), follows the life of Edgar, a mute boy who grows up on a dog breeding farm in Wisconsin. Richard Russo writes, "I doubt we'll see a finer literary debut this year. . . . Wroblewski's got storytelling talent to burn and a big, generous heart to go with it"; Stephen King says, "I flat out loved *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*. . . . I don't reread many books, because life is too short. I will be rereading this one." *The Washington Post Book World* calls it a "big-hearted novel you can fall into, get lost in and finally emerge from reluctantly, a little surprised that the real world went on spinning." The novel, a *New York Times* bestseller, was chosen for Oprah's Book Club. Wroblewski grew up in Wisconsin and wrote the book, he said, because he wished he could read a novel about a boy and a dog "flavored with the uncynical Midwestern sense of heart and purpose so familiar from my childhood."

Alley Theatre's Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$5

(713) 521-2026 / inprinthouston.org

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

January 29 – February 13 (Times vary)

Houston Grand Opera

In this operatic thriller two children are pulled toward the world of the dead by the ghosts of their prior governess Miss Jessel and her lover Peter Quint. Internationally acclaimed soprano Amanda Roocroft plays the governess whose obsessive efforts to protect the children may prove more of a threat than the spirits themselves. Powerhouse mezzo-soprano Judith Forst is housekeeper Mrs. Grose, the governess's only ally. Haunting Victorian sets depict the world of the Henry James novel on which the opera is based. Directed by Neil Armfield, this is the third opera in HGO's ongoing Benjamin Britten series.

Sung in English with English Supertitles

Performance Timing: 2 hours, 10 minutes including 1 intermission

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$23 - \$200

(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org

MRS. MANNERLY

January 29 – February 28 (Times vary)

Alley Theatre

Inspired by a childhood memory of etiquette class, playwright Jeffrey Hatcher conjures up the world of a seven-year-old studying manners from the title character. Mrs. Mannerly is a demanding teacher, and no student in her 36 years of etiquette classes has achieved a perfect score. But when he discovers her secret past, Young Jeffrey is determined to be the first. This unique comic tale reveals truths about the face we present and real selves that lie inside. *Recommended for general audiences.*

Neuhaus Stage

Tickets: \$40 - \$55

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

